

Endorsing 25 x '25

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25 by 25

Agriculture's Role in Ensuring U.S. Energy Security

On February 21-22, 2005, over 140 leaders representing a wide cross section of U.S. agricultural interests gathered in Austin, Texas to explore the future role that farmers and ranchers can play in helping the nation meet its growing energy needs.

The leaders heard presentations from energy experts; examined various pathways by which “home grown” energy can be produced and/or harnessed from America’s vast land resources; and identified opportunities and challenges in advancing agriculturally derived energy solutions.

As a result of emerging technology, changing economic conditions and mounting concerns over national security, participants agreed that renewable energy initiatives offer tremendous potential for farmers to capture more income, for rural communities to prosper and for the nation to lessen its dependence on foreign oil.

Summit participants expressed support for the 25 by '25 vision— by the year 2025, agriculture will provide twenty five percent of the energy consumed in the United States— and endorsed the creation of an agricultural energy alliance to bring this vision to life.

The Ag Energy Work Group, which is leading the project, is now reaching out to agricultural leaders and organizations by inviting interested parties to participate in the project and help shape its future direction.

The following model resolution is a tool which can be used as is, or modified, to communicate endorsement and support for the 25 x '25 vision. Those endorsing the vision of agriculture as a major producer of energy will be invited to help establish priorities and develop action strategies to accomplish shared goals.

Preamble:

Whereas,

current and future risks to U.S. energy security are mounting;

domestic and global energy demands are growing exponentially;

environmental and health concerns and risks associated with fossil based fuel sources are escalating;

solar, wind and bio energy and biofuels can be captured and/or produced on the land mass managed by U.S. agriculture, and

technology and production capabilities allow America's farmers



and ranchers to play a major role in insuring a fully sustainable U.S. energy system;

Now therefore,

the _____ endorses the vision of 25 X '25 and commits to work collaboratively with leaders of the nation's agricultural community to:

- Further explore and define the overarching contribution which the agricultural sector can make as a producer of energy, and*
- Develop an action plan to bring this vision to life*

*Ag Energy Work Group
February 2005*

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